(d) the steps taken to curb train accidents and to provide safety to the passengers; and

(e) the details of accident-prone unmanned level crossings and the action proposed to man such crossings during the current year, particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Number of consequential accidents year-wise and zone-wise are given below:—

Railways	1995 96	1996 97	1997 98	199 99* [upto Nov.
Central Railway	54	57	65	40
Eastern Railway	32	31	27	22
Northern Railway	50	58	48	29
North Eastern	28	21	24	15
Northeast Frontier		18	20	19
Southern Railway	52	40	66	49
South Central	41	42	37	40
South Eastern	73	66	63	34
Western Railway	44	44	42	16
Metro Railway	1	1	1	
Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.		3	3	8
TOTAL	398	381	396	272

*Figures arc provisional.

(b) There has been decreasing trend of conequential train accidents except during 1997-98 when there was marginal increase in number of consequential train accidents.

(c) The accidents were due to human failure, equipment failure, sabotage and other miscellaneous factors.

(d) Steps taken to bring down the incidence
of train accidents on Indian Railways are as under:—

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the Signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.

(iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.

(iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

(vi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vii) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, maintenance depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

(viii) Whistle Boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(x) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

. (xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.

(xii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xiv) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

(e) Statistics of level crossings are maintained Railway zone-wise and not Statewise. Maharashtra State is covered by Central, South Central, South Eastern and Western Railways. There is no unmanned level crossing having recurring accidents on these Railways.

Foreign Investment Proposals for Schools

*100. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received

proposals for foreign investment in schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Government of India received eight proposals during the period 1983 to 1998 from the following:

(1) United World College.

(2) Canadian School, Delhi.

(3) Varkey International Public School.

(4) Maharishi Heaven on Earth Devp. Corpn. Ltd.

(5) Canadian School, Chandigarh.

(6) International Grammar School, Madras.

(7) Canadian School, Bangalore.

(8) Shri Dinesh Chandra Kothari.

of the above eight proposals, the Government has accorded conditional approval in respect of United World College, near Pune (Maharashtra), Canadian School, Bangalore and Maharishi Heaven on Earth Devp. Corpn. Ltd. In respect of the proposals received from Varkey International Public School, the proposal is under consideration by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), Ministry of Industry. The remaining proposals as submitted have not been found suitable.

(c) The Government proposes to initiate a wide ranging debate and then take a general view in die matter. In the meantime, proposals received would be considered on merits of each case.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

औषध कम्पनियों से राशि की वसूली के लिए उच्चतम न्यायालय का निदेश

621* **श्री मुनव्वर हसन**: क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उच्चतम न्यायालय ने ऐसी औषध कम्पनियों से कीमतों के अन्तर की राशि को वसूलने का निदेश दिया था जिन्होने अपनी दवाइयां सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित कीमतों से अधिक कीमतों पर बेची थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसी कम्पनियों का ब्यौरा क्या है जिनसे उक्त राशि वसूल की जानी है;

(ग) वसूल की जाने वाली कुल राशि कितनी है;

(घ) अब तक सरकार ने विभिन्न कम्पनियोंसे कितनी राशि वसूली है; और

(ड) सम्पूर्ण राशि की वसूली कब तक किये जाने की संभावना है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डी.ए.के.पटेल) : (क) माननीय उच्चतम न्यायालय ने (सिनेमिड(इंडिया) लिमिटेड बनाम भारत संघ एआईआरः 1987 एससीः 1802), अपने निर्णय में आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम, 1955 के तहत जारी औषध (मूल्य नियंत्रण) आदेश। 1979 के उपबंधों की मान्यता को वैध ठहराते हुए यह भी वैध ठहराया कि उन सभी औषध कम्पनियों, जिन्होंने माननीय दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय से सशर्त स्थगत लिया था, और जो अपने मुल्य वसूल करना जारी रखे हुए है, से अधिक वसूली गई राशि वसूल कर लेनी चाहिए।

(ख) से (घ) उपरोक्त उच्चतम न्यायालय मामले में अन्तर्निहित औषध कंपनियों संबंधी अपेक्षित सूचना संलग्न विवरण में दी गई है (नीचे देखिए)

(ड) यह कहना मुश्किल है कि प्रत्ये मामले में अन्तिम रूप से प्रक्रिया को कब मूर्त रूप दिया जाएगा, क्योंकि सरकार की कार्रवाई की न्यायिक जांच- पड़ताल एक स्वतंत्र प्रक्रिया है, जिसे सरकार द्वारा वसूली की अन्तिम कार्रवाई प्रारम्भ किए जाने से पूर्व समाप्त किया जाना है।

विवरण

(रूपए लाख में)

	कंपनी का नाम	देयता की अनुमानित राशि	जमा की गई राशि
1.	मे. सिनेमिड (इंदिया) लिमिटेड (डीमिथाइल क्लोरोटेट्रोसाइकिल एवं सूत्रयोग)	1320.52	100.00
2.	मे. हैक्स्ट (इंडिया) लिमिटेड (बरालगन कीटोन, पीएमटी फ्रुसेमाइ, फेनिरामाइन मेलिएठ, ग्लाइवेनक्लेमाइड एवं सूत्रयोग)	7780.80	312.10